

# ROSE ISLAND LIGHTHOUSE FOUNDATION NEWS



P.O. BOX 1419 NEWPORT RHODE ISLAND 02840

April, 1987 No. 3

## ANNUAL MEETING DATE SET

Mark your calendars for Sunday, May 17 to attend our annual meeting to be held at the Museum of Yachting at Fort Adams, starting at 12:30 pm. You may bring your own picnic lunch or have us put one up for you for \$6.00 each. Please make your reservation by sending in the form at the end of the newsletter.

The agenda for the meeting will include a short business meeting to be followed by a super program featuring a panel of Rose Island dwellers who will let us in on their reminiscences of life at the lighthouse in years past.

The business meeting will include the election of directors, a proposed change to our By-laws and any other business that is necessary to be considered by the general membership. Anyone interested in serving as a director is asked to call Sid Gorham, Nominating Committee Chairman, at 846-3132.

Hope to see you all on May 17!

## OUR CHALLENGE FOR 1987

Although we accomplished some significant rehabilitation items last year, such as a new roof and renewal of lites in the tower, 1987 will be the year in which the rehabilitation of the lighthouse really gets underway. A summary of our goals for this year is to complete the outside of the lighthouse and complete as much of the interior as necessary to enable a light keeper/custodian to take up residence at the lighthouse before the end of the fall season. Also included in our goals list is the installation of a new dock at the lighthouse site.

Almost all of the work undertaken last year was done by volunteers from Newport and its surrounding communities. We are counting on their continued support in 1987 and hope that others will want to join them. More specifically, last year we worked at the lighthouse on Wednesday afternoons and Saturday mornings. We are planning to continue these work periods for this year. We would like to get some 75 to 100 volunteers who would be able to put in at least one work period per month.

Work categories involved with this year's program are many. Obviously, carpenters and painters head the list, along with quasi-carpenters and quasi-painters, and beginner-carpenters and beginner-painters. We will also have plenty of challenges for gardeners and landscapers, and quasi- and beginner-gardeners and landscapers.

In order for the work at the lighthouse and other events by our Foundation to come off as

planned, we also need volunteers to help on the administrative side. Here the work schedule is event-oriented, such as with clambakes, mailings, and fund raisers.

And so, for 1987, I would ask each and every one of you to give the above some serious thought and consideration. We hope you will help us take up the challenge to accomplish this year's goals.

We think that you will find your involvement with rehabbing the lighthouse both fun and educational. Won't you check your commitments and see if you can't add the lighthouse program to your present schedule? Come and join us, we're sure that you will like it.

You can indicate your interests by filling out and sending in the form in this newsletter or by calling me at 846-4198 for more information or to sign up.

Curt Bunting, President



CHEF CHRIS BARLOW struttin' his stuff at the 1987 New Year's Day picnic. Chris gets our special thanks award for his bounteous Barlow-ques!

## SUMMARY OF 1986 EVENTS

Each year for the past five or six years, a few hearty souls brave cold and wind to have a picnic on Rose Island. 1986 got off to a great start with about 30 people bringing their own picnics, snuggling around bon fires on the beach and watching the TRUE diehards like Tom Benson and Taff Roberts who sailed out to the island!!

On March 9, the Rose Island Lighthouse was featured in Gerry Goldstein's article "Lights Out--can our lighthouses be saved?" printed in the Sunday Journal Magazine. The publicity gained us more than a few new members, as well as lighthouse "owners" who purchased shingles, bricks and windows. In addition, it generated interest by the American Express Foundation which in August became the first supporting foundation with its grant of \$5,000.

On the much less visible side of things, the "red tape" was fearlessly being dealt with by Curt Bunting, Bruce Bartlett and Glenn Gardiner, as the rehab plans were submitted to the Department of the Interior for approval.

May was a month for meetings with various foundations, including the Rhode Island Foundation and AMEX. Grant applications were drawn up and sent out. We sat back for a moment and crossed our fingers then set about the work for the summer.

Floats which had been found by Chris Barlow were donated to us by Pilot's Point Marina in Connecticut. Approval for a temporary floating dock system was granted by the CRMC and, thanks to the efforts of dedicated volunteers, the docks were in place for the annual clambake.

Held annually as part of Save the Bay's New- port Harbor Appreciation Week, the July 11th clambake was supposed to be limited to 150, but we managed to feed 200 people! The decision was made on the spot to notify members before the general public when tickets will be available for 1987's bake, scheduled for July 10.

Right after the clambake, on July 14th, we received approval from the Department of the Interior to go ahead with the rehabilitation of the Lighthouse. Volunteers signed up for work sessions on Saturday mornings to gut the lighthouse of its deteriorated plaster.



The Saturday work sessions were expanded to include Wednesday afternoons and the work progressed by leaps and bounds as the plaster was piled on! The roof was recovered with a membrane-type roofing, the windows in the light tower -- the original glass long gone -- were replaced with lexan, and the tower roof made weather tight.

An August visit to the lighthouse by Barbara Cervone of the Rhode Island Foundation led to that organization's award of a \$10,000 matching grant in October. With that challenge in mind, the Board approved the first annual raffle for a \$10,000 vacation anywhere in the world and the effort to meet the challenge grant was on. Publicity from Barbara Polichetti's Providence Journal story in November brought in more contributors, not only to buy raffle tickets, but to buy pieces of the lighthouse.

Strong local support for the lighthouse project was demonstrated by the Newport Garden Club which bought the tower for \$3,000 in November. And the kind of sentiment the lighthouse project has thrived on was demonstrated when Senator Eleanor Sasso (Cranston) and her husband gave us \$3,000 for the catwalk -- which we'll be calling the "Rose Walk" in memory of Mr. Sasso's mother, Rose!

Bruce Bartlett and Chris Zepp worked to apply for a Rhode Island Coastal Community Assistance Program grant which resulted in an award of \$20,000 to the City of Newport, \$12,000 of which is earmarked for the lighthouse project.

On December 10, the Rose Island Lighthouse was recommended for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places by the Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission, and the year ended with our planning for the New Year's Day picnic, 1987 and the raffle drawing party to be held on February 1, 1987.

Charlotte Johnson, Secretary



NO MORE LEAKS! Bill O'Hanley of Newport Roofing and Virgil Slyter from Duro-Last inspect the new membrane roof installed last summer.

## \$10,000 DREAM VACATION RAFFLE

In order to match a \$10,000 grant from the Rhode Island Foundation, the Rose Island Lighthouse Foundation started dreaming up ideas for fundraisers. A raffle was conceived, similar to other successful raffles in the area, which would offer tickets at \$100 each, limited to a total of 300 for a \$10,000 first prize dream vacation.

Working with Nancy Richardson and Laura Goldstein of Connections Travel on Pelham Street, the Foundation offered an \$8,000 travel coupon plus \$2,000 cash first prize and four other prizes of \$100 each.

On Sunday, February first, a happy and expectant group gathered in the main dining room of the Clarke Cooke House. Outside, ice and snow lay frozen on the street, while inside, a fire burned brightly in the large Colonial fireplace. The many small tables were decorated with fresh flowers, while the bar and buffet were set with wine, cheese and many varied and delicious hors d'oeuvre donated by our gracious hosts.

The group of about 125 people learned that while not all of the tickets had been sold, the profit was still sufficient to match the Rhode Island Foundation Grant.

Winners were drawn in reverse order with the \$100 prizes won by Nancy Hemmerich, Robin Wallace, Fran Mernoney and Joe Bosson. The first prize Dream Vacation was won by Gary and Carol Cummings of 40 Walnut Street in Newport.

The Rose Island Lighthouse Foundation plans to make this vacation raffle an annual event, so maybe you will be a winner next time!

Virginia Wood, Raffle Party Chairperson

## OUR MEMBERS COME FIRST

The Rose Island Lighthouse Foundation is off to a great start in 1987. Interest in the restoration keeps spreading farther afield with Associated Press articles popping up and funds received through special grants.

However, welcome as all this attention is, none of it could have happened, nor will it continue to happen, without YOU, the membership, your on-going support, your dues and your labor! You are the backbone of the organization and the need for your support continues.

Thanks to Micrographics, we will be using a new mailing system which will alert you when it is time to pay your dues. Your mailing label shows the status of your membership, giving the fiscal year you are active.

The Foundation's fiscal year runs from July first to June 30, so if you have an "87" on your mailing label, you are paid up through June 30, 1987. We hope you'll want to make it an "88" by sending in your membership renewal at this time.

Because of the popularity of our events--particularly the July clambake on Rose Island--we will be offering tickets to the membership first before announcing plans to the general public. We hope you will keep your membership up so you won't be left out!

Dana Magee, Membership Chairperson

## VISIT TO NEW ALCHEMY INSTITUTE

Recently a few members of the Board visited the New Alchemy Institute in East Falmouth, Massachusetts. Concerned with just how we are going to deal with problems like solid waste disposal (you can't flush into the Bay like the systems of the past), the Board is considering making the lighthouse project an environmental center. Much was learned during the visit, but even more information is needed.

While the job description for the lighthouse keeper hasn't been drawn up yet, we do know that who ever is chosen will have to have a diversified background and a special temperament to deal with the combined marine, historical and environmental aspects of this intriguing project.

----- TEAR OFF HERE -----

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ Street \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

• Please renew my membership in the Rose Island Lighthouse Foundation for the year ending June 30, 1988, in the following category:

\$5 Individual  \$25 Business  \$250 Supporting

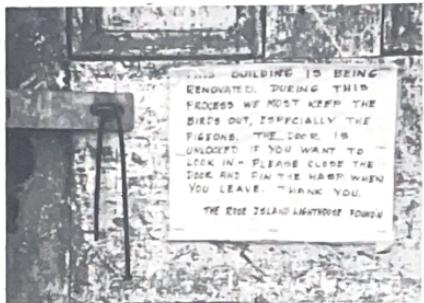
\$10 Family  \$100 Contributing  \$500 Founding

• Yes, I will be coming to the Annual Meeting on Sunday, May 17 at the Museum of Yachting at Fort Adams. I would like to buy \_\_\_ box lunches at \$6.00 each.

• I would like to volunteer my services and/or materials as follows: \_\_\_ Office  
\_\_\_\_ Newsletter \_\_\_\_ Fundraising \_\_\_\_ Public Relations \_\_\_\_ Construction labor

Other \_\_\_\_\_

NOTE: Contributions to the Rose Island Lighthouse Foundation are deductible within legal limits for U.S. Income Tax purpose. Please mail your check to the Rose Island L/H Foundation, P.O. Box 1419  
Newport, Rhode Island 02840. Thank You!



SIGN ON THE LIGHTHOUSE DOOR continues to happily surprise us each time we go out to the lighthouse. While there is evidence (usually in the form of empty beer cans) that people have been in the building during our absence, we have found the pin placed back in the hasp, the pigeons have been kept out, and the vandalism has been virtually halted.

You can imagine, therefore, how impressed people are when we are asking for a large donation or a grant and they see this sign. It's only a shirt cardboard in its plastic bag, but it has encouraged the kind of cooperation from pure strangers that this lighthouse hasn't seen in decades!

THANKS TO ALL OF YOU WHO APPRECIATE THIS WONDERFUL BUILDING AND ITS SURROUNDINGS!

## LIGHTHOUSE FOR SALE

foundations, including the Rhode Island Foundation and AMEX. Grant applications were put up and sent out. We sat back for a moment, crossed our fingers then set about th

LI (the summer.

so... Please which had been found by Charlotte Johnson, Foundation Secretary, at 847-4454. Other prices are:

Shingles	\$25.00
Bricks	\$50.00
Roof pieces	\$250.00
Windows	\$500.00
Doors	\$750.00



EAST ELEVATION



SOUTH ELEVATION



WEST ELEVATION



NORTH ELEVATION



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LIGHTHOUSE  
FOUNDATION

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